



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2615

campuses; free speech zone; prohibition
Prime Sponsor: Representative Kern, LD 20

DP Committee on Government and Higher Education

DPA Caucus and COW

X House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2615 prohibits a community college or university from limiting any area on campus where free speech may be exercised, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions

PROVISIONS

1. Prohibits a community college or university from limiting any area on campus where free speech may be exercised, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.

CURRENT LAW

A university or community college is prohibited from restricting a student's right to speak, including verbal speech, holding a sign or distributing fliers or other materials, in a public forum. The only circumstances in which a public postsecondary institution may restrict a student's speech in a public forum is if the restriction is both in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest ([A.R.S. § 15-1864](#)).

A *public forum* includes any open, outdoor area on the campus of a university or community college and any facilities, buildings or parts of buildings that have been opened to students or student organizations for expression ([A.R.S. § 15-1861](#)).